



Board of Directors meets in Shaybah, greets employees



SHAYBAH — Saudi Aramco's Board of Directors always meets in Dhahran while in the Kingdom, but this year was different. Last week, the Board met in Shaybah amid the towering orange sand dunes.

With the recent changes in the company's business planning processes, the Board was presented — and approved — the three-year business plan that includes the operating budget for the coming year.

In remarks to company management at the weekly conference call on Sunday, Al-Falih said that holding the meeting in Shaybah provided the Board with an opportunity to tour an industrial facility — Shaybah in this instance — and meet employees on the front line of company operations.

"The Board met some of the great people who are making it happen in Saudi Aramco," Al-Falih said. "We're not just talking about casual interactions and handshakes. They had a chance to meet with them and talk about the achievements and the challenges, and how they are building their careers."

"I am very proud of our Industrial workforce and the contribution they make day in and day out. I wanted to make sure the board gets the same feeling I get every time I have those interactions."



From the Arabian Gulf to the Red Sea

A Transformation Under Way



Cover Story

■ Saudi Aramco president and CEO Khalid A. Al-Falih, above, speaks to members of management during Wednesday's road show presentation in Riyadh. The CEO traveled to various company locations throughout the week, including Dhahran on Monday, to give presentations on the Business Plan approved last week by the company's Board of Directors.

▶ Al-Falih, in his remarks to company management at post-Board of Directors meeting road shows held throughout the week, noted Saudi Aramco is undergoing a change "unparalleled in its breadth and depth" that will require new heights of management. In the ambitious new business plan unveiled at the corporate road shows, the company's focus is on expansion. And though the company's capital investment will double, it is critical that effective cost-management practices be observed to maximize returns.

See full story on page 3

Saudi Aramco supports Kingdom's COP19 efforts

NESA SUBRAHMANYAN
WARSAW — No one got a “warm” welcome during the 10-day United Nations climate negotiations and conference in Warsaw during November with its near-freezing temperatures, but there was plenty of warmth and camaraderie among the Saudi Aramco employees who represented the Kingdom at the event.

The conference took place against the backdrop of Typhoon Haiyan — one of the worst storms on record and one that dramatized the urgency for addressing climate issues. Talks often went overtime and sometimes stretched into the wee hours of the morning, making sleep deprivation common among the delegates.

Under the guidance of veterans Khalid Abuleif of the Chairman's Staff and Ayman Shasly of Corporate Planning, some of the company's young talent including Albara Tawfiq, Sarah Baashan, Nouf Aburas and Hamid AlSadoon took pivotal roles representing the Kingdom's position pertaining to climate issues.

The company's expertise was also evi-

dent at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' side events, organized to showcase and promote the region's sustainable energy management programs.

Company specialists made presentations covering five focus areas: carbon management and energy technologies; energy efficiency; energy sustainability; renewable energy; gas recovery, flare management and minimization.

A presentation on Saudi Arabia's Carbon Management Roadmap was made by Ahmed Al-Eidan of EXPEC's Advanced Research Center. An overview of the company's renewable energy program was presented by Nour Shihabuddin of Power Systems, who then left Poland to continue work on a solar project in Arizona.

Environmental Protection Department's Mohammad Al-Hajri moderated a session on energy efficiency and presented the company's water conservation system and programs. Process and Control Systems Department's (P&CSD) Khaled Al-Usaimi spoke about the company's energy management program, underscoring its lead-by-example initiatives in the Kingdom.

At a GCC Carbon Management side event P&CSD's Saleh Mulhim looked at the development of the company's gas program over the past 32 years and its role in proactively meeting the Kingdom's growing energy demand.

At the same event, Saeed S. Al-Aloush of P&CSD detailed the challenges, benefits and opportunities arising from



■ HE Ali I. Al-Naimi, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and chairman of the company's Board of Directors, makes his keynote address during the United Nations Climate Conference held in Warsaw, Poland.

the company's flaring mitigation activities, which have earned it recognition as a global leader.

The side events concluded with a session on economic diversification as part of mitigation and adaptation frameworks in GCC countries. A presentation on economic diversification in Saudi Arabia was presented by Corporate Planning's Salman Aldossary to explain national efforts and cooperative actions under the umbrella of economic diversification.

OPEC Basket Weekly Price trend for the past five weeks:

Friday, November 15, 2013	— \$103.80
Friday, November 22, 2013	— \$105.35
Friday, November 29, 2013	— \$106.98
Friday, December 6, 2013	— \$107.99
Friday, December 13, 2013	— \$107.08



الرامكو السعودية
Saudi Aramco

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■ Salman Al-Dossari from Saudi Aramco Corporate Planning explains the inclusion of nuclear energy as a way to diversify Saudi Arabia's energy mix.



■ Khaled Al-Usaimi of Saudi Aramco's Process and Control Systems Department speaks about the company's energy management program, emphasizing its lead-by-example initiatives.



Your Voice

Making an impact on others and the world

Saudi Aramco has adapted many traditions to recognize its employees regularly through a variety of methods. One of these is the service award recognition program.

Serving a single company continually for 25, 30, 35 and even 40 years is a major achievement. The journey that leads to these remarkable terms of employment begins for many of us immediately after high school or college, when our hopes and ambitions are high.

And for those who successfully reach one of these milestones, the achievement can be appreciated in all of its many dimensions.

When I was asked to write a small paragraph about what I



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have achieved and done during the past 25 years as a professional, I find it hard to think how 25 years of hard work could be condensed into a single paragraph or even a page.

For a moment, I thought to

myself that it just wasn't fair at all. I thought such achievements should be written in a book and published as a biography that people can read, remember and ultimately admire.

Later that evening, I went with my family to iThra Knowledge Program that was being conducted by Saudi Aramco. It happened that I visited the "101 Inventions That Changed the World" tent.

KSL-TV in Salt Lake City in the United States said about it, "It's like traveling the world and moving swiftly through time while standing in one place." So, the journey I went through in a short period of time made me reconsider my thought about achievements.

I realize that you can condense your life into a single sentence even if you make a big impact on your surroundings.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit this exhibit, please take advantage of it and visit with your family. Discuss with them how we can make a positive impact on others.

At the same time, for employees with long service, we need to look back on our achievements and work and guarantee that they are passed smoothly and positively to our younger generation — the ones who are going to take us to an even brighter future.

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the publication.



Photo: Abdulaziz Al-Moiweed/MPD

■ Khalid A. Al-Falih, fourth from left, is joined during a question-and-answer period at Wednesday's road-show session in 'Udhailiyah by, from left: Khalid H. Al-Dabbagh, controller; Abdallah Al Saadan, acting senior vice president of Downstream; Amin H. Nasser, senior vice president of Upstream; Muhammad A. Al-Ali, senior vice president of Finance; and Ahmad Al-Sa'adi, vice president of Gas Operations.

A Transformation Under Way

CEO shares company's course, Board-approved business plan

EAMONN HOUSTON

DHAHRAN — Saudi Aramco is undergoing a change “unparalleled in its breadth and depth” that will require new heights of leadership, company president and CEO Khalid A. Al-Falih told members of management in Dhahran on Monday as he reported on last week's Board of Directors meeting in Shaybah and communicated the approved 2014-2016 Business Plan at the second in a series of corporate road shows. Other road show presentations were held at company facilities across the Kingdom during the week.

Regarding the business plan, Al-Falih said the Board approved an ambitious program that will see capital investment nearly double over the plan period. The focus, Al-Falih said, is on expansion, but he cautioned against complacency and urged all of the management tiers across business lines to get maximum return and value from capital investments and their respective operating budgets.

Highlights of the 2014-2016 Business Plan included:

- Continued expansion of the downstream refining portfolio in-Kingdom with SATORP completing a full year of operations in 2014, YASREF operational by the end of 2014 and continued progress toward the completion of the Jazan refinery.

- Shaybah will see a 250,000 barrel

per day (bpd) crude expansion to 1 million bpd – double that of when operations at the Rub' al-Khali field started in 1998.

- Recovery of natural gas liquids (NGL) at the Shaybah field at a capacity of 275,000 bpd will be commissioned.

- An extensive drilling program aims to increase gas production capacity and maintain maximum sustainable capacity (MSC) for oil.

- Increasing gas production to help meet the Kingdom's domestic energy needs.

- A massive investment will be made in research and development and technology, and a tripling of the R&D workforce.

- Expansion of co-generation plants will lead to self-sufficiency in power and achieve exporter status.

Placing the business plan in context, Al-Falih said: “We are undergoing an extensive change process; a change process which, in my view, is unparalleled in both its breadth and depth.”

He told the audience at Dhahran's North Park Auditorium that Saudi Aramco was in a “very good place,” but that further improvement would be required as the company significantly grows its crude oil, gas, refining and chemicals businesses. Al-Falih described the plan as “an aggressive but attainable plan. We believe that Saudi Aramco will reach these ambitious goals,” he said.

The comprehensive plan has budgeted

for massive projects across company operations. Al-Falih presented the audience with details of the plan over three main thrusts: Portfolio, Capabilities and Citizenship.

Al-Falih said the strategy is to move strategically toward reshaping the company's business portfolio. He said natural gas will play a steadily increasing role for both the company and the Kingdom's economy. He also noted that with the move into chemicals, the company's downstream scale will be growing and contributing to the goal to become the world's most profitable downstream player.

The company's power generation capability will double over the business plan period, Al-Falih said, as co-generation will play a central role in transforming the company from an importer of power into an exporter. A target for the production of 4.3 gigawatts has been set for the year 2016.

Al-Falih said that as Saudi Aramco becomes more agile, there will be more delegation and empowerment, but with that comes accountability. He noted that the improvement made under the Business Process Streamlining initiative has been significant and that course of optimizing our processes will be continued indefinitely.

Investments in technology and manpower and the opening of research offices in North America, Europe and Asia have also signaled a change in the landscape in which Saudi Aramco is operating. “This is all a sign of how important technology is, but by far the most important thing is how we manage, motivate and inspire our people,” he said.

The CEO urged managers to lead through teamwork. “We are on a journey to discover the most effective way to work, and that will certainly require us at Saudi Aramco not only to work harder, but also to work smarter.”

Al-Falih said the company will benefit from “embracing our national role” in terms of corporate citizenship as an economic engine, a source of knowl-

edge and a benchmark for other companies. Diversification of the domestic economy would offset any ripples in the oil and gas industry, and promotion of the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math), cultural interaction, safety and environmental stewardship would lead to a robust and vibrant Saudi economy and society that equips the people who will form the future talent pool.

The president and CEO noted the importance of energy conservation and efficiency in the Kingdom. “(Annual domestic) energy demand growth is twice the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and three to four times higher than levels in developed countries globally.”

The ambitious business plan, Al-Falih said, does not come without risks. He compared the company to a powerful engine that must occasionally tap the brakes to ensure that the risks are being managed. He noted that Saudi Aramco will be introducing an Enterprise Risk Management methodology that will be used to assess multiple types of risks across the company and the measures being taken to manage those risks.

In a call to the gathered leadership, Al-Falih pointed out that the ambitions of the business plan require a greater emphasis on managing costs. “Managers and division heads, let's take pride in getting maximum value for money. People have to recognize that we are a company that demands value.”

Al-Falih's remarks were followed by a video and detailed presentation of the 2014-2016 Business Plan by Bassam Asiri, manager of Planning and Performance Management Department. A question and answer session involving corporate management followed.

Closing the event, Al-Falih appealed to management to reflect on what more they can contribute to the success of the company. “How can we help to take this company further on a journey that is already under way,” he said.

Environmental campaign hosted in Ras Tanura

AREF M. YOUNIS

RAS TANURA — More than 25,000 visitors from Rahima, Safwa, Dammam, Anak, Saihat and other communities stretching as far away as Riyadh, recently attended a three-day environmental campaign organized by the Ras Tanura Refinery Engineering Department in conjunction with Ju'aymah NGL Fractionation, Ras Tanura Producing, Ras Tanura Terminal, Marine and Northern Area Community Services.

The 2013 Ras Tanura Area Environmental Awareness Campaign was officially opened under the patronage of the Governor of Ras Tanura and the Heads of various security, civil defense and the Frontier Guard detachments in the greater Ras Tanura area.

Conducted under the auspices of Omar S. Bazuhair, executive director of Refining and NGL Fractionation, the event covered an area of about 20,000 square meters of grass installed along the Rahima Corniche by Saudi Aramco in coordination with local contractors.

Among those helping inaugurate the event was Abdullah O. Al-Baiz, general manager of the Ras Tanura Refinery, other members of management from Ras Tanura, as well as invited

personalities from the government and general public within the local communities. The inauguration at the main tent saw the release of more than 150 kites by enthusiasts brought in from across the country.

Three massive tents were erected for programming designed to raise educational awareness concerning pressing environmental issues. According to organizers, it was a challenge to engage multiple live performances by many energetic troupes brought in for the purpose.

Family oriented fun and games were found throughout the site. Within each location were surprises for all members — young or old — including kite-making and "flying for keeps" by the kite-makers.

Participants included male and female students from more than 50 schools and charitable organizations dedicated to the care of orphaned and disabled children.

The campaign used educational and entertainment activities, motivational speakers, an associated exhibition, play and kids' sections, hot and cold food and beverages, and many competitions with prizes for those who won.



Photos: Mohammed Al-Shaikh/MPD

■ Students from area schools take part in the 2013 Ras Tanura Area Environmental Awareness Campaign by cleaning up a park area in Ras Tanura. More than 25,000 visitors participated in the campaign over a three-day period.

Event lead organizer Saad Binmatlig, Engineering Division head of the Ras Tanura Refinery, expressed his satisfaction with the turnout. "It is extremely fulfilling to see families learn about the environment while enjoying their time," he said. "We developed a program that met the expectations of the visitors and preceded that with aggressive media coverage that helped attract 25,000 visitors compared to 10,000 in 2012."

Additionally, 190 bus trips for visitors from neighboring towns and villages were arranged.

Aside from the environmental message, the event also coincided with the World Day for Challenging Disability, with many disabled visitors taking full advantage of the activities.

The event also coincided with



■ Rashed S. Subaie from Ras Tanura Community Services Utilities Division, left, makes a presentation on proper air conditioning maintenance to, from right, Mohammed Othman from EPD, Saad Binmatlig, champion, and HE the Gov. of Ras Tanura, and Abdullah O. Al-Baiz.

the conclusion of four weeks of sporting competition with the completion of the Ras Tanura

Rally jointly organized by Saudi Aramco and Rahima Sporting Club.

Company engineers play major role in international technical conference

JUDI OTTMAN

CHICAGO — Electrical engineers dedicated to solving operational challenges within the petroleum industry gathered recently in Chicago for the 60th annual 2013 Petroleum and Chemical Industry Committee (PCIC) Technical Conference — presented by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Industry Applications Society (IAS).

The annual event draws together the industry's best to discuss and provide solutions to help ensure reliability and safety by addressing such challenges as aging equipment, harsh weather conditions and other risk factors that can greatly impede operations.

Engineers from Saudi Aramco and Aramco Services Co. (ASC), who all are members of IEEE, played a major role at the conference, which this year attracted more than 2,000 participants and guests from around the world.

Providing the opening keynote address was Donald Dunn, general supervisor of the ASC Engineering Services Division, who is serving as the 2013-14 chairman of IEEE IAS PCIC.

The PCIC "brand," he told listeners, is synonymous with excellence. "Throughout its 60-year

history," he said, "the organization raised the bar on excellence by consistently recognizing and awarding engineers who developed and presented papers on the most successful reliability processes."

He added that the organization has grown on an international scale by staging technical exchange programs around the world (PCIC Brazil, PCIC India, PCIC Europe, PCIC Mexico, and soon, PCIC Middle East). It has also expanded its mentoring and scholarship programs to support the next generation of electrical engineering professionals.

Company engineers present case studies

During the technical program, a group of Saudi Aramco engineers presented a case study titled "Rotor Hot Spot Detection and Resolution in Large Oil and Gas Industry Motors." The paper, authored by Salah Al-Ali, Rami Dabousi and Yousef Al-Rasheedi, addressed their methodology for detecting rotor hot spots.

Saudi Aramco engineer Basem A. Helmi coauthored a paper that was presented titled "The Application of Power Factor Correction Capacitors to Reserve Spare



■ As the 2013-14 chairman of IEEE IAS PCIC, Donald Dunn presented awards at the conference, including one to ASC engineer Jim Bowen, far right, and two others who received a Prize Paper Award (honorable mention) for a technical paper the three co-wrote and presented during the 2012 PCIC Technical Conference. The other two coauthors were John P. Nelson with NEI, second from left, and Joshua Billman with Tesoro.

Capacity of Existing Main Transformers." It covered a unique application involving power factor capacitors. The other coauthors were engineers from ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Co. and Worley Parsons.

In addition to providing the opening keynote address, Dunn presented a technical paper that he coauthored along with two

others from GE Power Conversion. The paper, titled "Black-Out Test vs. UV Camera for Corona Inspection of HV Motor Stator Endwindings," showed how the use of a UV camera provided safer and more reliable detection of corona versus the previous method that involved turning the lights out and visually inspecting the stator.

During an awards luncheon,

Dunn presented ASC engineer Jim Bowen, who is an IEEE Fellow, with a Prize Paper Award (honorable mention) for a technical paper he co-wrote and presented during the 2012 PCIC Technical Conference. It was titled "The Effects of System Grounding, Bus Insulation and Probability on ARC Flash Hazard Reduction — The Missing Link."

Energy efficiency takes center stage

EAMONN HOUSTON

BAHRAIN — Embracing energy efficiency is crucial to the future of the Kingdom, Saudi Aramco and the wider Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC), the first installment of a major new sustainability conference has been told.

Saudi Aramco was the Elite Platinum sponsor of the 1st Energy Management Conference and Exhibition held last week in Bahrain.

The company's acting executive director of New Business Development and conference chairman, Ahmad Al-Khowaiter, described the two-day event as a unique opportunity, saying, "Today, we find a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the future of energy in this world. We must adopt a pragmatic approach that enhances the performance and efficiency of traditional energy sources while increasing the viability of alternatives. We must be willing to make the timely and extensive investments required. And we must commit ourselves to working collaboratively rather than at cross purposes."

Al-Khowaiter noted that technology and promising alternative energy sources can make a difference as growth in worldwide energy demand continues to rise, adding that Saudi Aramco is actively investing in the development of energy efficiency.

"Since its early days, Saudi Aramco has been well aware of the importance of the efficient utilization of the resources it produces. Accordingly, Saudi Aramco has launched several initiatives to improve the utilization of energy through the use of cost-effective innovative solutions and efficient resource management practices."

Cogeneration plants, Al-Khowaiter said, are now incorporated into the design of almost all Saudi Aramco plants. The technology has a thermal efficiency of more than 80 percent compared to conventional generation and its 40 to 50 percent of thermal efficiency.

He highlighted the company's commitment to renewables such as the development of the largest carport solar photovoltaic system with a 10 megawatt capacity at its Al-Midra Building in Dhahran.

The Saudi Aramco Energy Venture subsidiary (SAEV) also has a mission to invest globally in startup and high-growth



Photos: Mohammed Al-Shaikh/MPD

■ Ahmad Al-Khowaiter speaks at the 1st Energy Management Conference and Exhibition in Bahrain.

companies with technologies that are of strategic importance to the company. The goal, Al-Khowaiter said, is to witness Saudi Arabia become "a global leader, not only in petroleum, but in energy in general."

The Energy Management Conference was officially opened by HE Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister of Finance, and Oil and Gas Affairs.

Saudi Aramco professionals gave a number of presentations during the conference's technical program.

Among the keynote speakers was Nabil Al-Nuaim, director of Kingdom Economic and Energy Analysis Department for Saudi Aramco. He spoke about the role of energy efficiency programs in sustainable development.

Al-Nuaim said that sustainable energy considers social, economic and environmental aspects. "It is well recognized that energy efficiency is very critical in any sustainable development discussions. Energy efficiency and energy conservation can be thought of in a number of ways, but at its core, it involves better utilization of energy to deliver social, environmental and economic growth."

"Therefore, resource rich nations such as GCC countries

are developing and implementing energy efficiency programs to preserve their natural resources and secure the greatest benefits to their citizens throughout the resource life cycle," he added. "Avoiding wasteful consumption leads to sustainable energy and a solid planning framework that integrates the decision and execution processes to manage trade-offs and maximize the value of energy use."

Al-Nuaim said energy efficiency programs typically face five main barriers: policies and regulations, financial, structural, institutional and market barriers.

"Clear policies and regulations are required. This is the easy way to manage as, typically, governments realize the importance of energy efficiency for sustainability of their economy. The real challenge is the enforcement and managing implementation because of financial, structural, institutional and market barriers," he said. "Providing financial incentive to improve returns on energy efficiency investments is required. No one is investing in energy efficiency unless there are clear returns."

Al-Nuaim noted the challenges of designing a system to coordinate such enforcement is challenging, thereby requiring structural reforms. Empowering institutions and making them accountable for implementation is also a challenge.

"Lack of market participants and skills required to conduct energy audits and seeing energy efficiency programs as a business opportunity is also a challenge. Governments and institutions can't go it alone without support from the market, private sector investors and academic institutions," Al-Nuaim said.

Saudi Aramco also had a booth at the exhibition where the company's "Lead by Example" energy efficiency program was showcased.

Several Saudi Aramco experts gave presentations over three different conference tracks. Dr. Nour Eldin Mahmoud Bahy gave a talk titled "The Future of the Industrial Energy Efficiency is Now with Eco Industrial Parks." Bahy explained the savings that can be made through the integration of power at such parks.

Raed Al Shneiber discussed Saudi Aramco's experience with energy intensity and its efforts to make savings, and engineer Fahad Otaibi gave details of an atmospheric distillation unit retrofit to save energy and energy-based GHG emissions.



■ Employees from Aramco Asia who joined the company's first team-building exercise in Beijing pose for a group photo during the event.

Aramco Asia employees converge for team-building exercise

BEIJING — "I found we share more cultural habits and traditions rather than differences. For instance, both Chinese and Arab people accentuate the value of the family," said Howard Zhai, Office Services administrator. "Just like a Chinese saying goes: Harmonious family can lead to the success of everything."

Zhai's comments came during a cultural discussion during which Saudi and Chinese staff sat in a circle talking informally about the similarities and difference between the two cultures. The session was part of the first team-building event held in Beijing upon the first anniversary of the newly established Aramco Asia office. More than 80 Aramco Asia (ABS) employees participated in the event, held Dec. 6.

The event included an array of interactive activities designed to relax the attendees, strengthen interpersonal relationships, increase cross-cultural understanding within the Aramco Asia family and build synergy and harmony among the whole ABS team — something intended to contribute to the realization of the overall business goals and objectives of ABS.

Sulaiman Ababtain, president of Aramco Asia, focused on the aspects of family spirit and cultural understanding while delivering his remarks. "With such social activity, we are trying to build the Aramco Asia family collectively. I watch with a sense of delight that everybody is engaging with each other in a very friendly manner without any barriers, and this is one of the objectives of such

social gathering," Ababtain said.

Turki Al-Daghrer, Training and Development manager of Aramco Asia, along with refining specialist Matej Hraste, were facilitators of the event. Al-Daghrer said he was happy to be part of the success of such activities as a co-host, helping increase the level of understanding among Saudi, Chinese and other cultures that, in general, are reflected in the day-to-day work. "The diversity in cultural background, our differences as individuals should make us stronger as a team. Every culture has its own areas of strength that we have to exert some effort to understand and appreciate," he said.

The one-day event was well-received by the local employees. "It provides a

valuable opportunity for us to get a better understanding of each other with cheers and laughter," said David Liu, marketing manager for Aramco Asia. "For example, the jigsaw puzzle game required very quick response as well as a good degree of patience. We managed to solve the puzzle in a humorous mood, and at the end of the day, with good team spirit."

Peipei Gao, investment analyst, was very excited about the team-building. "It was nice to appreciate and understand the diversities permeating across different departments and cultures, which would definitely contribute to achieving the company's business objectives as well as cementing our human relationship as individuals," she said.



Desert Seas

Saudi Aramco's Media Production Division brings more than 100 million homes an unprecedented look at the exotic marine habitat along the Kingdom's shores with "Desert Seas" film project.

JAMSHEED DIN

As it weaves its way through the reefs in the underwater world of the Red Sea, the 2-meter long annulated sea snake possessing seven times the killing power of a rattlesnake is not a creature you would want to meet in a hurry.

He's looking for his next meal. Not many people have seen or heard of this venomous creature. That's because the exotic marine life that dwells under the east and west coasts of Saudi Arabia have remained largely hidden from prying eyes for years.

For centuries, only a select few have had the opportunity to observe the subsurface existence that flourishes under the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf — but not anymore.

Saudi Aramco's Media Productions Division (MPD) has opened up this previously little-known world by teaming up with award winning British documentary makers Icon Films to produce *Desert Seas*. Millions of viewers around the globe are able, for the first time, to see up close one of the richest and most enchanting marine environments anywhere on the planet.

This treasure of a production is wooing audiences worldwide. Currently being aired on the renowned National Geographic Channel, it has been a ratings hit.

To date, *Desert Seas* has been transmitted to 96 countries and into more than 100 million homes. Its viewing figures have delighted the National Geographic. The Kingdom's rich marine life is getting the global audience it deserves.

"This is great news for the Kingdom," said Osama Al-Kadi, director of MPD at Saudi Aramco.

"It is the first time that a film crew has been given such access to the Kingdom's marine life. It's an unprecedented production of high quality; this is reflected in its impressive viewing figures."

In many ways, Al-Kadi's words are an understatement. "High quality" doesn't quite hit the mark — jaw dropping would be more accurate.

Icon Films crews were given unrestricted access to the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea thanks to Saudi Aramco. By working in close coordination with the relevant government authorities, Saudi Aramco



■ The wonders of the Kingdom's shores and surrounding waters are explored in *Desert Seas*.

was able to secure filming access for Icon and its expert camera team.

"Everyone knows the National Geographic Channel; it's a global brand," said Al-Kadi. "It's a reflection of the quality of the production that the National Geographic has aired, and continues to air, *Desert Seas*."

The film has been so successful that it has been sold to a further

14 channels and networks.

Bringing it together

Once Saudi Aramco decided to pursue a film showcasing the Kingdom's marine life, the next move was to find a film production company that had the credentials to produce the world-class production that would be required.

And for Saudi Aramco's Envi-

ronmental Protection Department (EPD), it was an opportunity to show the world a hidden side to Saudi Arabia.

"We saw this as a chance to provide the world with a glimpse into the rich marine ecology in the Kingdom," said Dr. Osama Fa-gaheha, general supervisor for Environmental Engineering at Saudi Aramco.

Thus began the search for a

film company with the expertise and know how to pull off such a production. After much searching, it was clear that the U.K.-based Icon Films was at the top of a list of only a handful of companies that could produce such an ambitious film.

"MPD met with Icon, and we knew they were the company to do this," said Al-Kadi. "But equally, they jumped at the chance to be involved. They also knew that the film idea had great potential."

While visiting the U.K., MPD representatives also had an opportunity to meet with the National Geographic Channel. They knew Icon would be producing the film and listened to MPD's project brief, and they were hooked. National Geographic's vice president of Television remarked, "If Icon Films does it, we'll take it; no question."

With everyone on board, the production could now kick into action. The film's objective was clear: to expose the world to the wondrous subsurface realms of the Kingdom's waters. With this in mind, MPD set about coordinating the logistics and planning that would be required to pull off the production.

A myriad of Saudi Aramco and external government organizations were involved. Saudi Aramco's Aviation Department supplied the helicopters that allowed filming of the sublime aerial shots. EPD supplied the technical consultants that provided information on marine life and locations. And Saudi Aramco's Government Affairs worked diligently with government agencies to secure access and filming permits for the film crew. And over the entire project, MPD was ensuring all of the pieces of the jigsaw fell into place.

After a year of filming, an unprecedented production — probably the most ambitious ever undertaken in the Kingdom — was ready to be rolled out to a global audience.

Desert Seas is a 60 minute production narrated by Sir David Attenborough that has captivated viewers as it reveals a hidden side to the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia's unique marine environment is getting the global audience it deserves.

To watch *Desert Seas*, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7667jwwX00&feature=c4-overview&list=UUsMpjOUqn7pExBdJpaHCeMg>.

Ibtikar puts focus on innovation

ABDULLAH A. KHAMEES
RIYADH — Saudi Aramco teamed up with the Mawhiba group to present the third Ibtikar Exhibition Dec. 1-5 in the Kingdom's capital city under the theme "Creativity Builds a Knowledge Society."

Innovation took the spotlight at the event, which featured hundreds of workshops, lectures and related events in addition to the exhibition, which drew more than 1,700 entrants in several categories. The event's Scientific Committee reviewed the entries and narrowed the field to 210, including 110 from Saudi men and women students and 100 from university research centers.

Among the entries, 30 patents were registered at the Saudi Patents Office, representing 15 percent of the exhibition finalists.

Saudi Aramco president and CEO Khalid A. Al-Falih spoke at the event and put the innovation displayed there in context.

"As real creativity is a never-ending accumulation of achievements, no words will suffice to repay creative people as their ultimate goal is to contribute to

the development and progress of their societies," he said, noting that the company is honored to partner with the King Abdulaziz and His Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (Mawhiba) to bring such events to the Saudi people.

The Kingdom's Minister of Education and Mawhiba vice president HH Governor Faisal ibn Abdullah ibn Mohammed opened the event and took pride in the hundreds of achievements of young Saudi men and women showcased there.

"What we see here reflects the true image of the Kingdom's progress and prosperity," the Minister said. "The Ibtikar Exhibition is a source of pride and honor for all of us as the participating pavilions and innovations embody remarkable progress on all sides."

The Minister toured the Saudi Aramco pavilion and was welcomed by Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter, the company's acting executive director of New Business Development. Saudi Aramco Affairs department managers Abdulla I. Al-Isa and Mae S. Mozaini



Photos: Ahmed El Itani/MPD

■ Young guests at Ibtikar visit the Saudi Aramco booth to learn more about some of the technologies the company is employing in its business. The company's pavilion attracted people of all ages.

also were on hand to greet the Minister.

During the event's closing ceremonies, Al-Khowaiter noted that the first Saudi patent was filed in the name of Saudi Aramco and that the company now has 260 international patents and another 535 patents pending.

"Ibtikar has become one of the most important regional exhibitions specialized in spreading the culture of innovation throughout the Saudi society, honoring creative Saudis and

bringing together innovators, businessmen and those interested in the development of industries alongside international experts under the same roof," Al-Khowaiter said.

He also detailed the company's commitment to the Kingdom and its people.

"Social responsibility is not new to its system of operation. It's an established part of the company's core values as embodied in the value of citizenship," he said. "Based on this role, we con-

tribute greatly to encouraging young Saudis to innovate and invent whether through the various company programs directed to students or through the efforts exerted by Wa'ed, a company to assist young Saudis transform their ideas and inventions into projects by supplying them with material support and technical advice."

The event was held under the auspices of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud, who also serves as president of Mawhiba.

TIE IT forum focuses on latest IT trends

AREF M. YOUNIS
AL-KHOBAR — Exploring the latest trends and developments in information technology with a view to growing the Saudi IT sector was the focus of a special Saudi Aramco forum held recently in al-Khobar.

Hosted by Saudi Aramco's IT, "TIE IT" (Trends, Industry and Entrepreneurship in IT) encouraged collaboration between the key catalysts in Kingdom's IT community.

Abdulaziz Al-AbdulKarim, executive director of Saudi Aramco's IT admin area, opened the forum by emphasizing that TIE IT is an opportunity for knowledge sharing and targeting young local talent. He noted the forum offered an opportunity to discuss various IT topics in depth over the two days.

Al-AbdulKarim outlined the three main objectives of the forum. "First, this is a knowledge sharing platform bringing together students, entrepreneurs and IT companies to network and exchange ideas about IT business opportunities in Saudi Arabia," he said.

"Second, the forum presents the main industry trends and best practices in applications development, applications security, big data and mobility," he added. "Third, we will learn about the services of the institutions in the Kingdom that provide logistical and financial support for entrepreneurs to start new IT businesses."

Al-AbdulKarim said entrepreneurs were "the engine of economies," adding that it is an exciting time for startups in Saudi Arabia. "Today, as never before, the Kingdom's government agencies, research and teaching universities, and major companies are committed to fostering the innovations and risk-taking necessary for new businesses to take off," he said.



Photo: Mohammed Al-Shaikh/MPD

■ Abdulaziz Al-AbdulKarim asks questions at an exhibit during the recent TIE IT Forum held in al-Khobar.

He pinpointed human capital as key to any successful business, alongside IT infrastructure, technology, business acumen and financial support.

"Saudi Arabia is poised for a huge increase in creative business startups, in IT as well as other industries. We have the human capital, we have the expertise, we have the technology, and most importantly, we have strong domestic and export markets. The day is coming soon when we will be part of a flourishing new economy of businesses providing leading edge IT services, including applications development and customization, cloud computing services, IT consultancy and other IT services," Al-AbdulKarim said.

Ammar Alyousif, the TIE IT Forum manager, said the event attracted 1,800

individuals over the two days, including about 700 college students. A team of 16 young professionals from the IT PDP pool organized the event.

"The forum brings together expertise from various fields, including academic fields of professors and students, major companies, small businesses and IT professionals," Alyousif said. "The forum also includes booths of IT companies such as SAP, McAfee, Microsoft and business incubators, in addition to a number of Saudi innovators presenting their IT projects such as Traffic and Flood WSN by two KAUST students and 6abeeb.com, Saudi Arabia's first online medical care search and scheduling service."

The forum featured keynote addresses by international speakers, hands-on

workshops and exhibition booths from leading IT companies and major incubators in the Kingdom such as Wa'ed, Bade and Riyadh. Project showcases from young talent were also featured.

The mission of TIE IT is to provide a knowledge exchange platform targeting local IT companies, entrepreneurs and young talents. The goal is to bring synergy to the local IT culture built on foundations of excellence, integrity and security.

Key speakers included Eoin Keary from the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP), and Carric Dooley from world-renowned security technology company McAfee.

Dr. Lilac Al-Safadi, from the King Saud University in Riyadh presented on "The Power of Big Data."

Josh Clark of Global Moxie challenged delegates to go "Beyond Mobile: Where No Geek has Gone Before."

"Sensors, smartphones and tablets have transformed the digital experience by introducing sensors into our everyday lives, bridging the digital and the physical," Clark said. "When computers are able to sense and interpret the environment, they also have the opportunity to influence it, to act on it. Our next generation of data systems will 'talk' to the physical world to draw data from it and to change it. Our digital systems are becoming remote controls for the physical world."

Tawfiq Al-Rushaid from Saudi Aramco's IT Department rounded off proceedings with a talk on "Information Security Behavior Management."

Each morning, lively panel discussions allowed delegates to interact, while afternoon workshops focused on entrepreneurship, business plans, legal systems and registration, finance for startups, entrepreneurship in IT, application development and security, mobility, cloud computing and SAP.

Fikr 12 tackles topic of job creation

ADIL A. SADIQ

DUBAI — More than 130 speakers, including well-known Arab intellectuals, thought leaders and innovators were featured at the Fikr 12 conference Dec. 4 and 5 in Dubai. This year's conference featured the theme "Job Creation: 80 Million Jobs by 2020 in the Arab World."

The conference opened with an experts session titled "A Roadmap for Job Creation in the Arab World" in which experts and government officials discussed and developed a road map for the creation of new job opportunities, which was a response to the Arab Thought Foundation's initiative. Another closed session, "Media Impact on the Enhancement of the Culture of Labor Societies," brought together Arab editors-in-chief and media leaders to discuss the media's role in job creation in the Arab world.

Productive and inclusive Arab societies

"Public Policy Enhancement in the Arab World" was the theme of the first of four workshops on the first day. The second workshop discussed "Rethinking Economic Growth toward Productive and Inclusive Arab Societies" and was organized in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO), Regional Office for the Arab States. The workshop was moderated by Zafiris Tzannatos, an economic expert from Greece, with participants including: Emanuela Pozzan, senior regional gender specialist, ILO, Italy; Dr. Mary Kavar, senior employment specialist, ILO, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; and Rania Bikhazi, enterprise development specialist, ILO, Lebanon.

The third workshop addressed "Labor Mobility Policies," and a fourth focused on "Sustainable Job Creation and Talents Retention." This final workshop was moderated by Mohammed Al-Jashi, human resources consultant from Saudi Arabia.

Preparation, qualification and training

The second day included two working sessions. The first addressed government policies regulating the performance of labor markets and was designed to provide information that could form the basis of governments' interference in labor markets. The second session, held in partnership with the World Bank under the theme "A New Societal Economic Culture," discussed ways of improving work culture.

Four workshops dealing with preparation, qualification and training policies were held with a focus on the role of educational institutions, continuous learning and effective partnerships. One workshop,



Photo: Abdulaziz Al-Moiweed/MPD

■ Khalid Al-Buainain speaks during the Fikr 12 conference in Dubai about Saudi Aramco's goals and achievements in the field of employing young Saudis.

organized in partnership with the Union of Arab Banks, addressed the role of the private sector in job creation and raised several questions about the parties concerned with driving the economy.

Volunteering vs. real work

The "Entrepreneurship and Startups" workshop strived to develop a framework for the field of entrepreneurship and opportunity for success and sustainability in the current business climate. The workshop also discussed how to establish a successful startup company in an ever-changing environment. The final workshop, "Volunteering: A Pathway to New Skills," examined the link between volunteering and real work and how volunteering can support career development.

Thought in the oasis of civilization

Hamad Al-Ammari, assistant secretary general of the Arab Thought Foundation and executive director of Fikr Conferences, officially opened the conference, presenting the main theme of Fikr 12 Conference and explaining its main objectives and guidelines.

In his opening remarks, HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal expressed his appreciation of the United Arab Emirates and Dubai and congratulated the Ruler of Dubai on its successful bid to host the World Expo 2020.

The Prince, who is chairman of the Arab Thought Foundation, delivered his speech as a poem, addressing various issues such as the future of the Arab culture and what he called "thought in the oasis of civilization." The Fikr 12 official opening ceremony was also attended by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, vice president of the United Arab Emirates, prime minister and Ruler of Dubai.

The nation's concerns and dreams

Khalid G. Al-Buainain, Saudi Aramco senior vice president of Engineering, Capital and Operations Support, highlighted the company's leading role in job creation. He began his speech by emphasizing the importance of the conference's theme, saying, "To choose, as the topic of this conference, job creation for young people and the challenge of creating 80 million jobs in the Arab world, strongly shows how the conference succeeded in addressing the region's concerns and dreams."

Saudi Aramco hits 90 percent Saudization

Al-Buainain emphasized that individual solutions to this situation cannot succeed and that partnership is imperative in the development of strategies to address that difficult problem. Speaking about Saudi Aramco's experience in the creation of job opportunities for young men and women that match their career aspirations, Al-Buainain said: "Saudi Aramco has managed, for more than 80 years since its inception, to build a giant and successful company by all accounts and achieve a high Saudization rate of about 90 percent of its 60,000-strong staff."

"Thinking of the future over the next 20 years, Saudi Aramco realized the importance of developing accelerated strategies and launching major initiatives to intensify its role in supporting the Kingdom's vision. We also found that being a giant and successful company is not enough; we must expand at the national level and increase our contributions and impact on economic development and job creation," he added.

300,000 job opportunities

Al-Buainain explained that Saudi Aramco has set an ambitious goal, which is to play the role of the active catalyst for the

localization of industries that comprise the company's supply chain in the energy and support services sectors, enabling such sectors to attain global competitiveness, in addition to the creation of 300,000 direct and indirect jobs by 2030.

3,000 jobs for Saudi women

With regard to Saudization, Al-Buainain highlighted Saudi Aramco's vision to increase the level of Saudization, especially in the services sector where the company noticed that Saudization does not exceed 30 percent and that local content in industries and services does not exceed 30 percent. Saudi Aramco is seeking to boost these percentages to 70 percent over the next decade.

As an example of support services localization and finding solutions to providing employment opportunities for women that are in line with our community values, Saudi Aramco has sponsored the establishment of a pilot project to provide more than 3,000 jobs for Saudi women with the creation of the Kingdom's first remote business services center.

Training of 5,000 young people

Al-Buainain concluded his speech by emphasizing the company's commitment to training young people and qualifying them for the performance of the work assigned to them in all of the company's facilities.

"Qualifying our people and providing them with job opportunities is the cornerstone. The example I am about to share with you now is perhaps a model to follow," he said. "Since the early days of the Jazan Refinery project, Saudi Aramco has forged a strong alliance with the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) and a number of the national and global companies that were awarded contracts for implementation of the project. Under this collaboration, training centers for Saudi youth were set up to offer training programs and qualify large numbers of Saudis for construction work. The number of trainees will increase to 5,000 in a few years."

iThra Youth

A spotlight session was held as part of the conference activities under the theme "Unemployment vs. Available Opportunities" during which leading experiences were presented that showed employment opportunities are still available despite the multiple dimensions of the unemployment problem. Saudi Aramco employees Albara Al-Auhali and Najla Al-Nomair of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture/iThra Youth gave an inspiring presentation and received positive feedback.

Saudi Aramco sponsors emergency planning workshop

MANAMA — HE Dr. Ahmad Ali Al-Shurian, Secretary General of Bahrain's National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA), inaugurated the GCC Regional Petroleum Products Emergency Plan Scenarios and Models Development Workshop organized by Saudi Aramco in cooperation with NOGA and the GCC Secretariat General at a Manama hotel on Nov. 5 and 6.

More than two dozen delegates representing all the GCC countries participated in the second biennial workshop.

In his inauguration speech, Al-Shurian emphasized the importance of this workshop, which had several key discussion topics, including oil products logistic information and services in the GCC countries.

Over two days, Saudi Aramco engineers Raafat Al-Dahian and Eisa Al-Suwaigh gave presentations and detailed explanations on the emergency plan models presumed for each GCC country. The models were created and developed using the Logistics

Programming System of Saudi Aramco's Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling (OSPAS).

Calculation of the models is based on distance, cost, each country's capabilities in the area of shipping and off-loading at the marine terminals, as well as the capacities of petroleum products bulk plants.

Saudi Aramco's team also trained the participants on the use of the Logistic Program for Emergency Scenarios and Models Development, assuming different scenarios for each country. Before the conclusion of the workshop, participants submitted suggestions and recommendations for developing GCC regional emergency plan scenarios to the GCC Secretariat General.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Al-Shurian lauded Saudi Aramco for its role in organizing the workshop, adding that he greatly valued the efforts exerted by Saudi Aramco's team in collaboration with those of NOGA and the GCC Secretariat General to support the event's success.



■ Eisa Al-Suwaigh explains emergency plan models created and developed using the Logistics Programming System from OSPAS.



Members of the Aramco Hangar Flyers' self-directed group pose with representatives of the Saudi Aviation Flying Academy during a recent visit to Thumamah Airfield.

Aramco Hangar Flyers group hits the road, takes to the air

JOSE CHOY PERNIA

THUMAMAH AIRFIELD — During the first week of November, the Aramco Hangar Flyers' (HFI) self-directed group in Dhahran organized a trip to Thumamah Airfield northeast of Riyadh, for a "discovery flight" adventure. The purpose of the activity was to stimulate private and sport aviation activities within the Saudi Aramco community.

This activity was the result of a February meeting in Dhahran when HFI invited representatives of the Saudi Aviation Flying Academy (SAFA) to give a presentation about in-kingdom flight training. SAFA, in conjunction with the Saudi Aviation Club (SAC), has a growing flight school with facilities at the Thumamah Airfield.

The SAC was appointed by the Saudi government to regulate and monitor all aspects of private and sport aviation such as paragliding, paramotoring, private aircraft operation, remote-controlled aeromodeling and educational programs in the field of aviation and astronautics. The SAC assists with licensing of aviation sport activities and regulation with customs regarding importing equipment.

As a result of that meeting, the club worked with SAFA to organize the discovery flight activity so HFI members would have the chance to fly a Diamond DA-40 single engine aircraft. The trip started at

4:30 a.m. in Dhahran, where a Saudi Aramco bus picked up attending HFI members. By 10:30 a.m., the bus arrived in Thumamah.

HFI members were greeted and shown into the SAFA training facility. After a safety briefing by a SAFA safety officer, the meeting was passed to Nemer Abu Samra, Operations and Maintenance supervisor of SAC.

Abu Samra described the SAC's activities in Saudi Arabia and answered questions from HFI members regarding importing equipment and private operations in KSA, etc. Abu Samra then passed the floor to SAFA's manager, Capt. William Roe, for a review of the day's flight training exercises and the assignment of HFI members to the five SAFA flight instructors. Two students were assigned to an instructor for a pre-flight briefing, and then it was out to the aircraft to begin the flying exercises. Students who were not flying in the first wave were given a tour of the installations and given turns in the flight simulator.

After the first wave of students finished, they toured the SAFA installations and were provided an opportunity to use the flight simulator, as well. This was planned to enhance the experience.

The simulator is an exact replica of the DA-40 cockpit and is able to simulate the conditions at Thumamah, giving students

a chance to get familiar with the controls, the glass cockpit instruments, the navigation equipment, the meteorological conditions and a view of how the field appears from the sky.

Meanwhile, instructors from SAFA were in the air assisting the participants to actually fly the planes. Each participant was on the controls for about one hour of flying. Each HFI member taxied, took off, climbed and landed the aircraft (with assistance of course).

Some had more assistance during the flight than others. (Four of the HFI members on the trip hold private or commercial pilot licenses.) The flight also included maneuvers such as touch-and-go, steep bank turns, stalls, steep climbing, etc.

SAFA selected the DA-40 because of its good reputation in terms of safety and durability. The aircraft is made with composites such as Kevlar, carbon fiber and glass fiber with epoxy resin. It has a state-of-the-art Garmin 1000 glass cockpit, which none of the members had ever used outside a simulator.

The plane also has an Austro diesel engine that runs on Jet-A, which was also a first for all of the HFI members. As aviation gasoline is not readily available in Saudi Arabia, SAFA decided to use Jet-A with a certified diesel engine so it can operate from almost every airport in the Kingdom.

SAFA used its five single engine planes during the activity. In total, SAFA has five DA-40 single engine and five DA-42 twin engine planes for its commercial pilot training. It is in the process of importing additional aircraft and building its permanent facilities.

By the end of the activity, HFI members were exhausted but extremely satisfied, having had an opportunity to pilot non-company aircraft in Saudi Arabia, which was something that no previous HFI members could boast in the 30-year history of the club.

HFI, with the help of Saudi Aramco and the Recreation Department, has plans to continue with activities such as paragliding, paramotoring, remote control aero-modeling and, maybe someday, a proper "flying club" with its own aircraft.

Everything starts with a dream, and HFI members dream of flying.

HFI would like to thank the company's Recreation Department for its assistance in making this trip possible, Saudi Aramco's Transportation Department for providing the bus and to Tamimi Catering for its assistance for the trip refreshments. Also, HFI would like to thank SAC and SAFA for providing this wonderful experience.

HFI meets the first Wednesday of every month. For info, email Wilson Rowe at robert.rowe@aramco.com.



Let the games begin in Haradh

Ahmad A. Al-Sa'adi, Gas Operations Vice President, presided over the ribbon cutting at the new soccer field in Haradh on Nov. 17. After the opening remarks, he kicked out the first ball and a friendly match was played between the Operations and Maintenance Divisions of Haradh Gas Plant Department. Al-Sa'adi was accompanied at the inauguration ceremony by Ahmed A. Al-Ghamdi, manager of Haradh Gas Plant Department and management of all Haradh areas. The event was organized by the Southern Area Remote Communities Services Division.

Photo: Ahmed Al-Jrayan

Movies

DHAHRAN

ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH, starring Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker (animation, PG) – Dec. 19 and 21, 5:30 p.m.; Dec. 20, 8 p.m.
STORY WE TELL, starring Michael Polly, John Buchan (documentary, PG-13) – Dec. 19 and 21, 8 p.m.; Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.
WORLD WAR Z, starring Brad Pitt, Mireille Enos (action adventure, PG-13) – Dec. 22 and 26, 5:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 8 p.m.
IRON MAN 3, starring Robert Downey Jr., Guy Pearce (sci-fi, PG-13) – Dec. 22 and 26, 8 p.m.; Dec. 25, 5:30 p.m.

UDHAILIYAH

OZ: THE GREAT AND POWERFUL, starring James Franco, Michelle Williams (fantasy, PG-13) – Dec. 19 and 21, 5 p.m.; and Dec. 20, 8 p.m.
AFTER EARTH, starring Jaden Smith, David Denman, (action, PG-13) – Dec. 19 and 21, 8 p.m.; and Dec. 20, 5 p.m.
THE GREAT GATSBY, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan (drama, romance, PG-13) – Dec. 22 and 26, 5 p.m.;

and Dec. 25, 8 p.m.
PACIFIC RIM, starring Idris Elba, Charlie Hunnam (action, sci-fi, PG-13) – Dec. 22 and 26, 8 p.m.; and Dec. 25, 5 p.m..

ABQAIQ

THE SAPPHIRES, starring Chris O'Dowd, Deborah Mailman (biography, comedy, drama, PG-13) – Dec. 19 and 21, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
FAST AND FURIOUS 6, starring Paul Walker, Vin Diesel (action, PG-13) – Dec. 20, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
KON-TIKI, starring Pal Sverre Hagen, Anders Baasmo Christiansen (adventure, PG-13) – Dec. 22 and 26, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN, starring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart (action, R) – Dec. 25, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

NAJMA

EMPEROR, starring Matthew Fox, Tommy Lee Jones (drama, PG-13) – Dec. 19 and 21, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.
WRECK IT RALPH, starring John C. Riley, (animated, PG-13) – Dec. 20, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.
THE SAPPHIRES, (biography, comedy, drama, PG-13) – Dec. 25, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.
FAST AND FURIOUS 6, (action, PG-13) – Dec. 20, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

IRON MAN 3: When Tony Stark's world is torn apart by a formidable terrorist called the Mandarin he starts an odyssey of rebuilding and retribution.
WORLD WAR Z: United Nations employee Gerry Lane traverses the world in a race against time to stop the zombie pandemic that is toppling armies and governments, and threatening to destroy humanity itself.
FAST AND FURIOUS 6: Hobbs has Dom and Brian reassemble their crew to take down a mastermind who commands an organization of mercenary drivers across 12 countries. Payment? Full pardons for them all.

Sudoku

Easy
Each row, column and 3-by-3 square must contain only one of each digit, from 1-9.

Last week's answer

8	6	3	2	1	9	5	7	4
2	7	9	5	3	4	6	1	8
4	5	1	8	7	6	3	2	9
7	1	2	6	8	5	4	9	3
6	9	4	3	2	7	1	8	5
3	8	5	4	9	1	7	6	2
1	3	7	9	4	8	2	5	6
5	4	8	7	6	2	9	3	1
9	2	6	1	5	3	8	4	7

(C) yoogi.com

8	1				6	9		
			9	5	3	8		6
						1		3
								6
	8						3	
7			1					
1			4					
	9		8	7	5	3		
		8	9				4	5

Crossword answer

Crossword answer

T	A	C	O	P	I	E		L	A	T	H	E		A	T	C	A	M	P			
E	Q	U	A	L	E	D		R	A	S	H	A	D		T	H	A	L	I	A		
N	U	R	T	U	R	E		A	R	T	E	R	Y	C	R	I	T	I	C	S		
T	A	S	E	R		N	O		H	E	A	R	T		R	A	R	E	G	A	S	
								O	R	A	L					E	M	B	A	S	S	Y
I	R	R		L	I	P	G	L	O	S	S	A	R	Y		T	E	P	I	D		
T	O	Y	A		M	A	Y		A	T	N	O		Z	Y	D	E	C	O			
H	O	W	M	A	N	Y		G	A	Y		D	D	E		D	E	G				
A	T	O	N	E	S		A	R	C	H	E	R	Y		E	N	E	M	I	E	S	
C	O	R	E	R		B	E	E	H	I	V	E		T	O	L	E					
A	N	D	S	O		E	S	A	I		O	L	D	E		I	N	B	U	D		
I	B	A	R		S	N	A	K	I	E	R		T	O	R	R	E					
G	R	O	C	E	R	Y		N	E	G	L	E	C	T		J	E	T	A	G	E	
R	O	N			C	L	I			T	D	S			D	U	S	T	I	E	R	
E	V	E	R	S	O		H	O	M	E		B	E	L		I	N	N	E			
W	E	G	O	T		F	I	N	E	R	Y	T	U	N	E	S		C	T	S		
						S	P	I	L	L	E	D		O	R	R		P	E	P	E	
A	G	R	E	E	T	O		M	I	S	D	A	T	E		T	U	L	S	A		
F	L	A	T	T	E	R	Y	P	A	N	E	L		U	S	S	T	E	E	L		
B	U	S	T	E	R		A	T	T	I	L	A		R	E	T	I	R	E	E		
S	T	E	E	R	S		N	Y	E	T	S			E	P	O	N	Y	M	S		



Photo: T.F. Walters

In this Oct. 20, 1954, image, Dhahran engineering inspectors Johnny Ghiselli, left, and Paul Meiran inspect the interior of a huge gas-oil separation plant spheroid, employing a system that at the time was new to Saudi Arabia. The practice involved filling the sphere with water and raising or lowering the level so that men in a life raft could closely inspect any area in the interior.

Crossword

AND 100 MORE!
By JEFF CHEN

ACROSS
1 Brief regrets, maybe
6 Agitated state
10 Order from on high
14 DJIA stock
17 Nobelist Root
18 Source of heat
19 It's for the dogs
20 Campus center
22 Big tips on cruises?
24 Chicken
25 Many a jazz combo
26 Willing to listen
27 Peace Nobelist
Wiesel
28 One good at stretching?
29 Tubular carb source
30 Green sage of films
32 Beginning piano student's first scale?
36 Stars and Stripes squad
39 They're noted for their neutrality
40 Civil offenses
41 LAX listing
42 Sassy
44 Fútbol cheer
45 Panther's color?
46 Nigerian people
49 Shockproof battery?
52 Stumblebums
53 Multiple millennia
54 Latin 101 verb
55 Code breakers' cries
56 Sugar bowl fans
57 Capital of Belarus
58 Aires
61 Twosome in the news, or the news itself
62 Appear eventually
63 Channel for channel surfers?
67 Sitcom lover of Chachi
68 Give up
69 Start of a balcony delivery
70 Queen lace
71 Via, informally
72 Locking horns
73 City on the Arno
77 Manufactured locks
78 Startled cries
79 Food problem at the front?
82 One of several H.S. subjects
83 Black Friday event
84 Owing
85 Rough patch?
86 Slick, perhaps
87 Hugo title word
89 Deliveries at Lincoln Center

91 "ChiPs" co-star
93 Tech news site's nefarious plan?
97 Sorority letters
98 Nonspecific checkbox
99 "Born Free" lioness
100 Skye of film
102 Classic muscle cars
105 URI's hoops conference
106 "Sometimes you feel like ..."
107 Painfully out-of-tune note?
110 Hamburger man
111 Miller
112 John Paul's Supreme Court successor
113 Out-and-out
114 Playa del
L.A. coastal region
115 Pic to click
116 Binds
117 Arnold's art
DOWN

1 HR dept. concern
2 Err
3 Oenophile's vacation destinations
4 Promising whiz
5 California's Big
6 Vulcan in demeanor
7 Tribal emblems
8 Holiday preceder
9 Director Craven
10 Muslim ascetics
11 Homer classic
12 Appetite stimulants
13 "Mazel _!"
14 Measure of brightness
15 Color in the original "Crayola 48"
16 It was admitted as a free state as part of the Missouri Compromise
18 NBC staple
21 Shaker, so to

speak
23 Quit
28 Get shellacked, say
29 Part of PRNDL
31 Pigeon
33 Delinquents of a sort, briefly
34 Memorable climber films
35 George Foreman's five Georges
36 Record, in a way
37 Historical periods
38 Things known to a select few
43 Knickknack
45 He played Arnold on "Happy Days"
47 Short deck hand?
48 Doing mil. drudge work
50 Fillets
51 Hunters' holidays
52 A smidgen
53 Preps for a snack, as corn
56 Long-distance

letters
57 Ponder
59 "Exodus" novelist
60 Hot time in Quebec
61 Like Beethoven's Sonata Op. 109
62 Airer of vintage films
63 NBAer until 2008
64 Motto on an inspirational cat poster
65 URL tag
66 Observe
67 Steel-toothed Bond villain
71 Like some anchors
72 Early Indo-European
74 Big 12 wrestling powerhouse
75 Went after
76 " _ boy!"
78 Make
79 In
80 Without a buyer

lined up
81 Belg. neighbor
83 The cooler
84 Span. miss
88 Writer with an award named for him
89 "Pride and Prejudice" novelist
90 Grabbed
92 "You betcha!"
93 Father of Shem, Ham and Japheth
94 Aquatic frolicker
95 Belushi's "Animal House" role
96 Cel mates?
101 Org. that sticks to its guns
103 Metal refinery input
104 Nimble
106 Frazier's Fight of the Century foe
107 Clicker button
108 Beverage
109 Slangy "How's things?"

1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	
17						18						19					20			21
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93	94						95						96		97					
98						99						100		101			102		103	104
105						106					107	108					109			
110						111					112						113			
	114					115					116						117			

Faulty Towers serves up comedy mayhem

DELSHAD KUMANA

DHAHRAN — Take two restaurant owners — one, a domineering, nagging wife (Sybil), the other a highly strung, short-tempered husband (Basil) — add a linguistically challenged, bungling assistant (Manuel) and you have all the ingredients of a recipe for disaster.

On Nov. 30, the Saudi Aramco Employees Association (SAEA) served up two helpings of Faulty Towers, a hilarious dinner theater experience based on the popular BBC sitcom, "Fawlty Towers." As in the original TV series, the husband and wife restaurateurs and their inept waiter created comedy mayhem with their flawed service and hilarious incompetence.

It was a memorable experience for the diners, who had to put up with bread rolls being tossed at them (restricted to one roll per person due to the recession, Sybil explained), finding someone else's dentures in their soup and a number of gags throughout the interactive two-hour show.

Over the past year, Faulty Towers has been so successful that there are now eight different troupes presenting the show in more than 20 countries. Only a third of the each show is scripted, and the rest is improvised at each venue.

Suzanna Hughes (Sybil), Rob Langston (Basil) and Ed Howells (Manuel) began staging the show in Bahrain last year. All three were thrilled to end their successful world tour with the Dhahran shows on their first visit to Saudi Arabia. Given a brief tour of the Dhahran camp in between performances, the actors were extremely impressed with the facilities provided for employees.

Based in London, Hughes has had small roles in popular BBC shows, including East-Enders, Holby City and My Family. Howells is a seasoned actor who has performed in fringe theater across the U.K. Langston, who plays Basil and bears an uncanny resemblance to John Cleese, the original Basil Fawlty, is a graduate of the Drama Studio London and has been involved in a variety of theater projects, including children's theater. He has toured with Faulty Towers throughout the U.K., Belgium, South Africa and Thailand.

The credit for bringing this unusual show to Dhahran goes to Timir Mukherjee, SAEA director and chairman of the event, and co-chair Kathleen Owen. "It takes a lot of legwork to stage an event such as this in Saudi Aramco," Mukherjee said. "The credit goes to all those who worked behind the scenes to make this possible. SAEA is grateful to Community Services in general, and their manager Abdullah A. Al-Ghabbani in particular, for their support."

"I would also like to thank Aysha N. Al-Naseeb from Recreation, Christophe Sargis, Recreation adviser, and Khalid A. Al-Dossary of Steineke Hall. Special thanks goes to Phillip de Bond of Tamimi caterers and his staff for playing along with the alternative dining experience," Mukherjee said. "I also need to acknowledge Mark Dranse of Punchline Media in Bahrain, who assisted SAEA with the coordination and logistics of the show. Above all, I'd like to thank Shala D'Souza and Dee Swartz from the SAEA office for their untiring assistance with ticket sales and coordination."

Mohammed Nauman Waheed, SAEA



■ Suzanna Hughes

■ Ed Howells

■ Rob Langston

president, added: "Our community needs events that provide entertainment and laughter after a stressful week. The team did a splendid job."

Event co-chair Owen added: "I hope that 'Faulty Towers' is just the beginning and that we can offer other events like

this not only to SAEA members but to the wider Saudi Aramco community. Living up to the value of social responsibility, self-directed groups like the SAEA play a huge part in the well-being and social health of Saudi Aramco employees and their family members."

Bulletin Board

Community Education: The Office of Community Education announces the winter session courses will be offered from Jan. 12-March 29. These courses offer a wide variety of academic, recreational and high interest pursuits. Employees may register themselves and their dependents — who meet eligibility requirements — online at http://sas.aramco.com.sa/sas/contentAction.do?name=comm_ed_home. Booklets containing course information are available at the Customer Care Centers. Please note that courses — when they become full or are canceled, or reach registration deadlines — will be closed for registration and removed from the website.

Dhahran Chess Club (DCC): The DCC meets every Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. at Building 1221-B on Ibis Street, next to the Heritage Gallery. DCC membership fees are SR50 for individuals and SR100 for families. The Dhahran Chess KIDS Academy meets every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. (special requirements and registration required). For info, contact Andreas Fuhrmann at 872-5451 or email andreas.fuhrmann@aramco.com.

Dhahran Oasis Quilt Guild: If you are a quilter or are interested in learning the art of quilting, please join us at the quilt house on Mondays from 1-3 p.m. or Tuesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. For more info, email doqgclasses@hotmail.com.

Boy Scouts Annual Pancake Breakfast: Come support the Dhahran Boy Scout Troop 1 while enjoying a pancake breakfast with family and friends in Dhahran. Saturday, Feb. 8 from 7-11 a.m. at Al-Waha North. Tickets are available from any Boy Scout starting Jan. 13 or at the door on the day of the event: SR20 for single or SR50 for family. For info, email Cignoli@hotmail.com.

Medical/SAMSO

To comment on this information, issued by Medical, please email Jacqueline.Mullen@aramco.com. Telephone contacts have been provided below, where possible, for dependents and retirees. Employees are encouraged to access medical information online:

- myhome Corporate Portal: <http://myhome> > my information > Medical
- Calendar of SAMSO Events: <http://samso> > Health Education > Calendar of SAMSO Events > Campaigns / Lectures and Webinars / Programs for more information or to register for activities.
- News from Medical online: <http://samso> > Announcements: What's New in SAMSO.
- **Quit Smoking:** SAMSO offers help to all employees, dependents, retirees and contractors to quit smoking. For info, visit <http://samso> > Health Education > Smoking Cessation Program (quitwell) or email us at SmokingCessation@aramco.com.
- **Safety Message:** Flu can be a serious health risk. Protect yourself — and those around you — by getting a flu vaccine this season.

SAMSO registered patients for All Areas

- **Appointments:** Make, cancel and more medical services on the Corporate Portal <http://myhome> > myInformation > Medical to make and cancel appointments, access medication information (process refills; request refills; renewal prescription from physicians; check request status; and access drug information); change medical providers; access the latest recorded results for cholesterol, blood glucose levels, hemoglobin levels; obtain immunizations records and blood group certificates; release of medical information; no-show history; dental bill; and maintain SMS reminders details. (SMS reminders are sent 48 hours in advance of the appointment date to all patients registered for the service who booked an appointment 48 hours or more before the appointment date.)
- **Centralized Contact Center:** To access multiple medical services call 800-305-4444. Select 1 for English or 2 for Arabic, and when prompted, press 1 to make and cancel appointments, select or change your physical, 2 for Pharmacy, 3 for Medical Customer Service Network (MCSN), four for Medical Liaison Office, 5 for Health-line (2-3 minute health related prerecorded messages in 33 categories), or 6 for a patient room. If you do not make a choice after three attempts, you will be put through to a customer service representative. The automated service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Customer service representatives are available during working hours. This service also allows customers to update their contact information as well as leave physician consultation messages. Out-of-Kingdom call +966-13-877-3888. The system will connect directly to the

SAMSO Centralized Contact Center so that the caller can select their options.

- **Dental appointments:** Employees can now make appointments online at <http://myhome> > myInformation > Medical > Medical Appointments > book a dental appointment. Dependents call 800-305-4444 for an appointment.
- **Feeling Stressed?** Have psychological, emotional, or social problems that you need help with? SAMSO registered patients contact the Community Counseling Clinic (CCC) at 013-877-8400 during regular working hours to make a confidential appointment in Dhahran. Employees can view <http://samso> > A-Z Services > Mental Health website for more information on services offered.
- **Flu vaccinations** are available from Sunday to Thursday through Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in all areas. No appointment necessary.
- **Help with your health care:** MCSN provides multilingual staff to assist Saudi Aramco patients with their health care related concerns and issues. Employees who are unable to find a resolution through normal channels may contact MCSN online <http://samso> > A-Z Services > MCSN. Dependents and retirees can email mcsn@aramco.com or call: In-Kingdom 800-305-4444, out-of-Kingdom +966-013-877-3888.
- **SMS Reminder:** Never miss a medical/dental appointment again. Register for the SMS reminder service. Update your mobile number on the Corporate Portal at <http://myhome> > myInformation > Medical > "Maintain SMS Reminder Details." Dependents may call the Central Registration Office at 877-3888 to activate or deactivate the SMS reminder services and update a mobile number. SMS reminders are sent 48 hours in advance of the appointment date to all patients registered for the service who booked an appointment 48 hours or more prior to the appointment date.
- **Webinar "2014 and Your Wellness Goals":** The webinar will be Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 9-10 a.m. at the Dhahran Health Center Auditorium. Employees can view the lecture live from their desktop at <http://video> > video streaming > channel 1 or channel 2 on the day of the webinar.

Medical Designated Facilities Division (MDFD) Registered Patients:

- **For flu vaccinations:** Enquire at your MDF about flu immunization.
- **Help with your health care:** MCSN provides multilingual staff to assist Saudi

Aramco patients with their health care related concerns and issues. Employees who are unable to find a resolution through normal channels may contact MCSN online <http://samso> > A-Z Services > MCSN. Dependents and retirees can email mcsn@aramco.com or call: In-Kingdom 800-305-4444, out-of-Kingdom +966-013-877-3888. MCSN also provide the **Urgent Health Care Access Help Line for MDF Patients.** Call 055-600-0468. Available only AFTER 4 p.m. for urgent health care matters that are life threatening, (e.g., where a patient needs a transfer from one hospital to another hospital for an emergency procedure or service that the MDF hospital does not provide). When an issue is not urgent, please call 800-305-4444.

Abqaiq

- **Flu vaccinations** are available from Sunday to Thursday concluding on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Primary Care Immunization Room. No appointment necessary.

Al-Hasa

- **Dental:** Patients from al-Hasa should go to Abqaiq or 'Udhailiyah dental clinics.
- **Flu vaccinations** are available from Sunday to Thursday until Tuesday, Dec. 31 inclusive, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Primary Care Immunization Room. No appointment necessary.

Dhahran

- **Al-Midra Wellness Center** offers consultations and lifestyle wellness coaching along with health screenings and other new services, including **blood donation** and **pharmacy** to Al-Midra and North Park employees. For info, visit <http://samso> > A-Z services > Al-Midra Wellness Center.
- **Blood donations** at Dhahran Health Center Sundays to Thursdays, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. and at Al-Midra Tower Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. - noon. To register call the Blood Bank at (013) 877-6770/6638 during regular working hours or register online <http://samso> > A-Z Services > Blood Donation.

CAMPAIGN: Lysosomal Storage Diseases Symposium

at Plaza Conference Center on Monday, Dec. 23, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. **MCSN:** Contact us with your health care related concerns, call 800-305-4444. MCSN drop-in Offices: Dhahran Health Center, Building 61 (Specialty area) and Building 50 (Primary Care) 7 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Sunday to Thursday. MCSN in EMS is operational after Saudi Aramco regular working hours and is for emergency cases only.

• **Pregnancy Tour the Mother and Baby Unit (3H):** The tour is designed to prepare for the delivery of your child. You must be 30 weeks or more into your pregnancy. Tour starts at 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Employees please register online at <http://samso> > Calendar of SAMSO Events > Programs > Tour of Mother and Baby Unit. Dependents please email nesreen.fares@aramco.com to register your place.

• **Pregnancy Wellness Program:** In Arabic and English (you must be 12 weeks or more into pregnancy), employees register online at <http://SAMSO> > Health Education > Calendar of SAMSO Events > Programs > Pregnancy Wellness Program. Dependents email samsopregnancywellness@exchange.aramco.com.sa.

• **Flu vaccinations** are available from Sunday to Thursday concluding on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Primary Care Adult Immunization Room. No appointment necessary.

Ras Tanura

• **Flu vaccinations** are available from Sunday to Thursday concluding on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Primary Care Adult Immunization Room. No appointment necessary.

'Udhailiyah

• **Flu vaccinations** are available from Sunday to Thursday concluding on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Primary Care Adult Immunization Room. No appointment necessary.

SAEA

Tickets currently on sale for: Coach to Bahrain's City Center every Saturday, An Evening at the Movies, Sparky's Entertainment Center, Al Rashid Entertainment Center, RamRoma Land at Venecia Mall in al-Khobar and Marina Mall in Dammam. Tickets are on sale for the following: **Dec. 31 in Bahrain** at the Crowne Plaza (round trip transportation available); Live in Bahrain, **Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan Concert** (Jan. 10). Download the SAEA Dateline newsletter at <http://sharek.orgs/30002961/Self%20Directed%20Group/Documents/Dhahran/Special%20Interest%20Groups/SAEA/deline.pdf>. The SAEA office at 1424 King's Road is open for ticket sales 3-5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. For more info, contact the SAEA office at 872-0117.



Greener Aspirations

Ras Tanura area residents and students take part in Saudi Aramco environmental campaign.

Page 4

SA LIFE

■ When looking for something after which to fashion her golf cart, Daphne Hope turned to her home country of Canada for inspiration.



Photo: Douglas Horn

A truly Canadian cart

DAPHNE HOPE

'UDHAILIYAH — As I confess, I could not resist the desire to spruce up my golf cart when I saw all my friends and neighbors upgrading their vehicles. The problem was, what to do?

The obvious choice (being Canadian) would have been a red and white maple leaf but that was a little too obvious. I wanted something more subtle yet still distinctly Canadian to those in the know. Then it hit me, one of the oldest Canadian icons is the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and its phoenix like resurgence in recent years made it a worthy image to display on my golf cart.

HBC is the oldest commercial corporation in North America. It was founded by English royal charter in 1670 as "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into

Hudson's Bay" (the large body of water in northern Canada). Today, HBC is the only European trading company to have survived the past five centuries.

In its early days, the HBC was a fur trading business. It also acted as the de facto government in those parts of North America being settled by the European explorers. The company controlled the fur trade through much of English controlled North America. This lasted for several centuries during which time the HBC set up a network of trading posts and extended its area of influence over much of western Canada and the United States.

In response to the need for goods to trade for the furs, HBC produced quality woolen blankets, which they traded for the coveted beaver pelts. The blankets were produced in different sizes and the size was indicated

by a series of indigo lines, known as "points", woven into the edge of each blanket. Several color variations were produced but the most distinctive one featured indigo, green, red and yellow stripes on a white background.

Today, the HBC point blankets are as coveted as the fur pelts for which they were once traded. The point blanket is uniquely Canadian and as recognizable as the red maple leaf. This was the color scheme I chose for my golf cart.

Naturally, I also had to order a fleece version of the point blanket to complete the look. I can't help but think that the traders of old would be amused to know that one of their blankets had migrated from the frozen forests of Canada's northland to the scorching deserts of Saudi Arabia.

Hollywood to Bollywood

Art and culture promotes health in 'Udhailiyah

OMANA BALANARAYANAN

'UDHAILIYAH — Rhythmic dance movements not only keep you physically active and fit but also help strengthen you emotionally and socially.

Hollywood to Bollywood, a program to promote cultural diversity, was staged in 'Udhailiyah on Oct. 25 to promote this concept to residents. Under the direction of Dr. Valli Batchelor, a few 'Udhailiyah residents, along with 20 Abqaiq participants, put on a show that focused on the health benefits of dancing and yoga.

The emphasis was on inclusiveness and community engagement and not on perfection or professionalism. Hollywood to Bollywood uses culture and art to promote health through a fun and memorable community experience, bringing out the best possible expressions in all individuals and helping them to gain self-confidence.

About 120 community residents ranging from 6-year-olds to adults were entertained and enlightened with the importance of physical, social, emotional and mental health through various dances and yoga. A variety of dance forms from the West (Hollywood) to the East (Bollywood), from semi-classical dances to energetic folk dances and modern westernized dances — and then calming to tranquility through yoga and music — were the highlights of the evening.

The program ended with the guests joining with the performers in swaying and dancing to the Bollywood music.

Saudi Aramco Employees Association, 'Udhailiyah Chapter, thanked Omar Ghazi, manager of the Southern Area/Central Region Community Services Department; Mohammad Khamsan, 'Udhailiyah Camp administrator; Fahaid Gahtani, 'Udhailiyah Recreation supervisor, Robert Rooney, Recreation adviser; Abqaiq and 'Udhailiyah community participants; and the audience for their extensive support and for the success of this event.

Readers Album

A chilling August hike

■ During a holiday to Scotland in August 2012, Iain Gow and his wife climbed a group of four Munros (Mountains in Scotland over 915 meters) known as the Ring of Steall (after Steall waterfall). The route covered a distance of 10.5 miles, with a total climb of more than 1,900 meters, which they completed in slightly less than 12 hours. The first summit was covered in cloud where visibility was reduced to about 10 meters. On the ridge walk to the second summit, the wind was blowing at 30 mph with a wind chill of 3 degrees Celsius — even in August. The ridge in the foreground is known as the "Devil's Ridge," which Gow described as quite a daunting experience as the photograph shows. Gow works at Pump Station No. 2 as a supervising craftsman in East-West Pipelines. He has worked for the company for 24 years.

